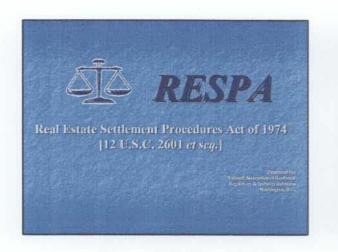
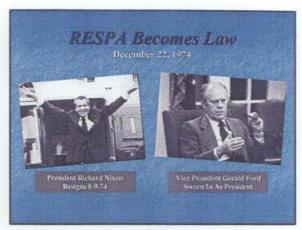
[Draft RESPA PowerPoint. Notes will accompany slides.]



Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 [12 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.]

Presented by: National Association of Realtors® Regulatory & Industry Relations Washington, D.C.





### What Is RESPA All About?

#### **Congressional Findings**

"The Congress finds that ... consumers [need to be] protected from unnecessarily high settlement charges caused by certain abusive practices that have developed in some areas of the country...."

### And Exactly What Were Those Abusive Practices?

### Remedy for Confusing Disclosures

- 1. Revise The Good Faith Estimate (GFE) 2. Revise the BUD-1

reform a new RESPA reform proposal to OMB. on November 8, 2007 which will change the rules on the timing, content, and format of disclosures.

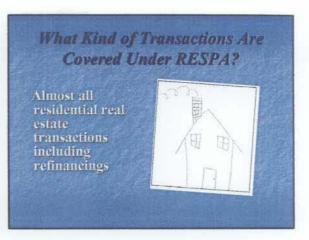


### Remedy for Reducing The Costs of Settlement

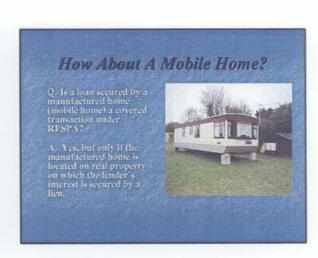
### Make Referral Fees Illegal

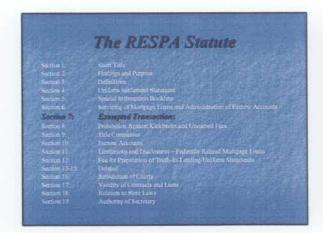
- Are referral fees really illegal?
- Really? Q.
- Really—unless you actually provide something of real value in return for receiving a referral fee—but in that case, it really isn't just a referral fee, is it?







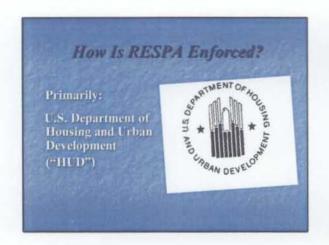


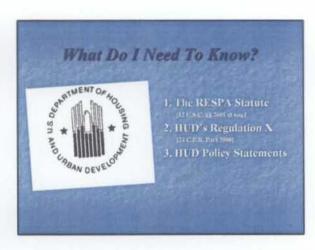


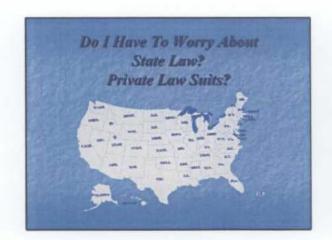
# What Kind of Transactions Are Not Covered Under RESPA? Cash sales Sales where the seller takes back the mortgage Rental property transactions Commercial and agricultural property transactions Temporary financing Vacant land Property of 25 acros or more Some assumptions and conversions

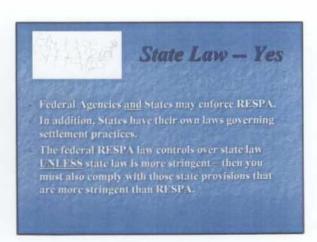












### Private Law Suits - Yes

Individuals may bring private law suits including class action suits.

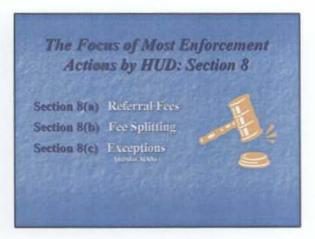
<u>Damages</u>: 3X settlement costs. Courts may also award court costs and reasonable attorney fees.

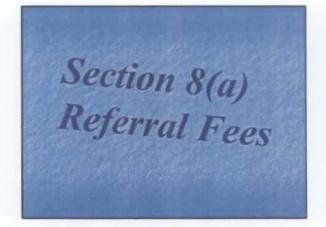
### How Do I Navigate This Minefield?

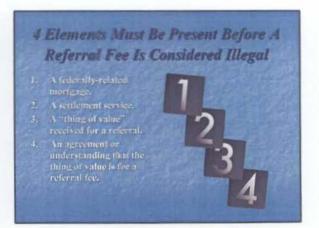
Educate yourself about RESPA and the law in your State governing the real estate settlement process.

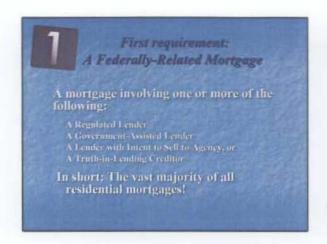
Stay in compliance by asking questions if you're not sure about an activity.

# The RESPA Statute Section 1 Section 2 Section 3 Section 3 Section 3 Section 4 Section 4 Section 5 Section 6 Section 6 Section 6 Section 7 Section 7 Section 8 Section

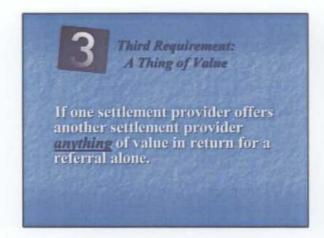




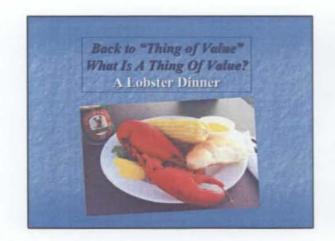


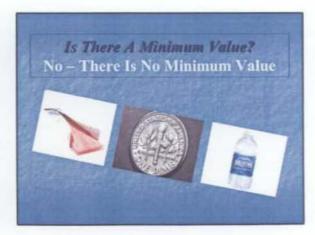




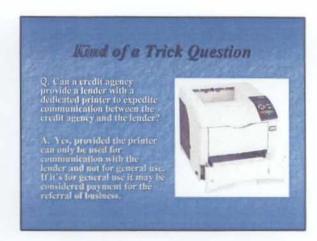


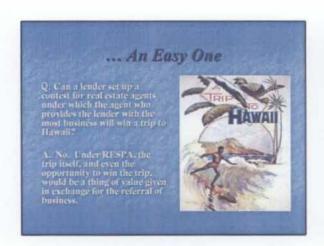


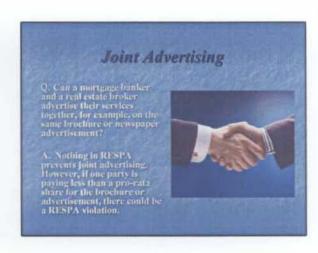


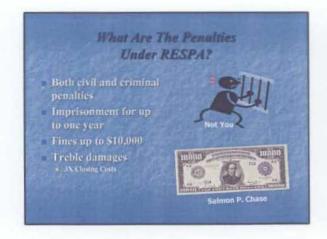


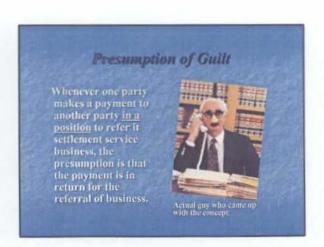












### GOLDEN RULE Restated

Provide Actual Goods or Services for the Thing of Value Given or Received Important exceptions to the noreferral rule under Section 8

### THE BIG ONE:

Cooperative Agreements between listing and selling Realtors®

### More exceptions to the no-referral rule under Section 8

Payments for services actually performed:

To an attorne

To a duly appointed agent

To an employed

For promotional & educational activities

Among affiliated businesse

### Affiliated Business Arrangements "AfBAs"

RESPA was amended in 1983 to allow a different set of rules for affiliated businesses, e.g. a real estate broker affiliating with a mortgage company and a title company.

Payments are allowed among ABAs <u>III</u> the affiliates satisfy a <u>Safe</u> Harbor Test

Roll False Divider

Table fine Co Moregage Cir. Circ Co.

### Safe Harbor Test



The only thing of value that may be transferred among affiliates is a return on ownership interest

AND - The referrer of business must disclose in writing

- the affiliation
- the cost of the services of the referred provider
- that the consumer is not required to use the affiliated entity

### 1992 RESPA Regulations on AfBAs

Provided distinct advantages to AIBAs

An employer may pay an employer for any referral activities (including referrals to the affiliated business)

Discounts or relates to consumers to entire them to use ABA are permitted (but still most satisfy other applicable legal requirements)



CONSULT A QUALIFIED RESPACABILER

# Elements of a Lawfull AfBA Dividights 10 factors (not all 10 recycles) The base of any layer and the application of the control of the cont

# Section 8(b) Fee-Splitting

### 4 Elements Required To Make A Split Fee Illegal

### A split of an unearned fee between parties

Pursuant to an agreement or understanding For a settlement service On a federally-related mortgage loan

## Is a split between two or more parties necessary for a violation?

You would think so. The literal language of the statute says "yes", but ... HUD's regulation says "no"

HUD's position is that the mere receipt of an uncarned, excessive, or duplicative fee is sufficient for a Section 8(b) violation, regardless of whether a second party is involved

### Types of 8(b) Violations 2001 HUD Policy Statement

The following, according to HUD, are violations of 8(b):

An uncarned fee split

A markup without providing actual goods or services

One provider charges a fee for:

No work

Nominal work

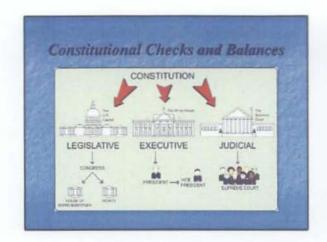
Duplicative work

Or, a fee that exceeds reasonable value

### Question

What happens when Congress, part of the legislative branch of government, seems to say one thing in a statute and HUD, part of the executive branch of government, enforces the law in a different way?







Federal Circuit Courts Are Split						
	2st	318	46	715	Sth	He
1			x	x	x	
Markey Ye Vidence			X	X	x	
To make a			×	X	x	
Standards Not resident			X			
7000	X	x				x
Markings are served		X				
heating heat	X	N			17	x
Now Constitute No Violence		x				?
Mark-op- marks	Y. T					X

# Remember whether a second party is involved.

# Exception Statement of Policy 1999-1



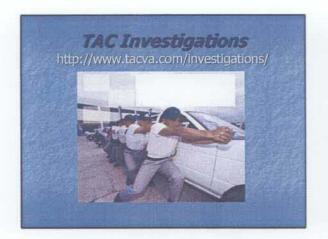
#### Former HUD Secretary Mel Martinez

Toronto, Outario - October 16, 2001

"... we are making RESPA enforcement a priority and giving it more resources. This includes staff dedicated to studying complaints, a new \$1.25 million contract for investigative services relating to RESPA compliance, and enhanced coordination of RESPA enforcement between HUD and the major federal banking regulators, to identify violators as a part of routine bank examinations."

### 22 Settlements in Last 2 Years

- 1. Hundreds of RESPA complaints are received by HUD each year
- 2. HUD has added 15 new staff
- 3. HUD contracted with TAC Investigations
- & Security Consulting to investigate complaints



HUD Enforcement Action
Illegal Joint Venture Profit Distribution
\$350,000 Fine

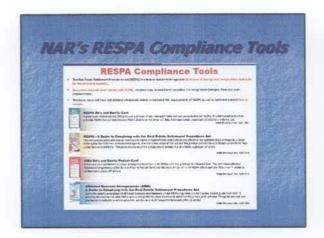
New Closing Company
Joint Venture

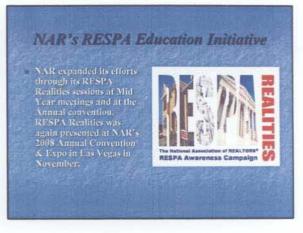
20%
Real Estate Agents
Assoc. with Brokarage
Profit distributions were initially made according to percentage of ownership (legal) and then red stributed by the the number and amount of referrals actually made to the New Closing Company Joint Venture (illegal).

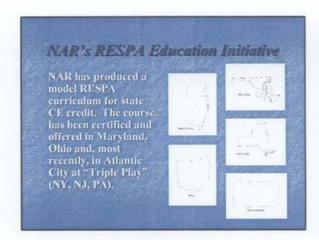
HUD Enforcement Actions
4 Real Estate Brokers Charge Excessive
Room Rental Fees — \$80,000 Fine

Four real estate brokers
received room rentals fees
from a title company. The
file company rented
conference room space from
each of the real estate
brokers to conduct closings.
HUD affect the rental fees
paid were in excess of fair
market value as required
under RESPA and assessed
an \$80,000 fine.

# NAR's RESPA Education Initiative NAR has responded by producing several educational products: Brochures RESPA Affiliated Business Arrangements Do's and Don'ts Cards RESPA Affiliated Business Arrangements









### When Must the HUD-1 Be Made Available?

The settlement agent must permit the borrower to inspect the HUD-1 or HUD-1A Settlement. Statement during the business day before settlement. The form must be completed to reflect the items known to the settlement agent at that time. Information related to the seller's transactions may be omitted.

12 U.S.C. Sec. 2603(b): Regulation X, 24 C.F.R. 3500.10(a

### What Must Be Included On The HUD-1?

- All lender-required charges
- All other charges (not required by lender) paid at settlement
- All sales commissions
- All charges paid before, or will be paid after, closing. These charges must be marked: "POC" Paid Outside Closing.

## **RESPA Compliance Tools**

The Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) is a federal statute that regulates disclosure of closing costs and prohibits kickbacks for the referral of business.

Real estate licensees must comply with RESPA; violators may receive harsh penalties, including triple damages, fines and even imprisonment.

These tools will help real estate professionals better understand the requirements of RESPA as well as learn more about *how to comply*.



### **RESPA Do's and Don'ts Pocket Card**

A great quick reference tool that provides examples of activities permitted and not permitted under RESPA. This laminated card which provides RESPA Do's on one side and RESPA Don'ts on the other will help licensees better understand and comply with RESPA. *NAR Product No. 126-100* 



### RESPA: A Guide to Complying with the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act

This guide provides an overview to RESPA's requirements and prohibitions affecting real estate brokers and agents. The guide explains the scope of the RESPA and the general prohibition on kickbacks and referral fees under RESPA's Section 8. The guide also reviews the exceptions to Section 8 and includes a glossary of terms. *NAR Product No. 126-110* 



#### AfBA Do's and Don'ts Pocket Card

Make sure your settlement business arrangements comply with RESPA with this great quick reference tool. The laminated Affiliated Business Arrangements (AfBA) Do's and Don'ts Pocket Card provides an overview of what RESPA allows and prohibits when it comes to settlement business affiliations. *NAR Product No. 126-115* 



## AfBA: Affiliated Business Arrangements A Guide to Complying with the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act

Learn the specific exceptions of affiliated business arrangements under RESPA regulations with this new pocket guide from NAR. It provides an overview of what RESPA allows and prohibits when it comes to settlement business joint ventures. The guide also outlines the factors to establish a service provider, and reviews HUD's response to recent AfBA violations. *NAR Product No. 126-120* 

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING

August 8, 2007

The Honorable Alphonso Jackson Secretary U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 7th Street S.W. Washington, DC 20410

### Dear Secretary Jackson:

The National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) and the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) support federal action to prevent abusive lending practices while assuring the continued availability of responsible subprime lending. In addition to strong legislative and regulatory action, NAR and CRL recommend that HUD improve consumer disclosures by reforming the Good Faith Estimate (GFE) under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA).

We are writing to encourage you to continue the important consensus-building approach that emerged from the 2005 HUD Roundtables. In response to HUD's request to Roundtable participants to provide constructive ideas for RESPA reform, NAR and CRL have worked closely together on ways to improve consumer disclosures by means of an enhanced GFE. This joint effort has resulted in broad agreement between NAR and CRL on a Summary GFE that highlights key loan terms and payment information in an easily understandable format. On the subject of Yield Spread Premiums our two organizations approach the issue from different perspectives. NAR is neutral on whether the YSP should have a separate line item in the Summary GFE, while CRL believes it should be a highlighted term.

Our organizations also share the belief that the Summary GFE should be accompanied by a full GFE with detailed explanations of each subcategory of fees to help consumers understand more fully the services and accompanying fees for which they are being charged. NAR and CRL stand ready to work with HUD and everyone involved in the housing industry to help restore consumer confidence in mortgage lending and appreciate your long-standing commitment to homeownership. If you have any questions or

concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Joe Ventrone, NAR's Vice President, Regulatory and Industry Relations ((202) 383-1095; jventrone@realtors.org) or Michael Calhoun, CRL's President ((919) 313-8513; mike.calhoun@responsiblelending.org).

Sincerely yours,

Pat V. Combs, ABR, CRS, GRI, PMN 2007 President, National Association of REALTORS®

Gat V. Comba

Michael D. Calhoun

President

Center for Responsible Lending

Mila D. Caller

June 1, 2006

The Honorable Alphonso Jackson Secretary U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 7th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20410

### Dear Secretary Jackson:

I am writing to commend you for your efforts to achieve a consensus on RESPA reform and your leadership at HUD. Your leadership and willingness to work closely with the National Association of Realtors® on RESPA and many other issues critical to Realtors® and the public, such as FHA revitalization, is truly appreciated. We look forward to a continued strong partnership in the years ahead.

As an example of your effective leadership, the seven RESPA roundtable sessions last year gave representatives from all sectors of the real estate finance industry and consumer advocates an opportunity to share their views on RESPA reform. The Department is now better informed about potential impacts on the housing finance markets as a result of the roundtables. I also particularly want to recognize the hard work and dedication of HUD staff.

In the final roundtable, Deputy Assistant Secretary Gary Cunningham asked the participants to move from simply reacting to the Department's original proposals, to providing constructive ideas on how the Department should move forward. In that spirit, I wish to summarize our views on some basic questions raised by the roundtables.

- 1. Revise the Good Faith Estimate (GFE) to Ensure Certainty and Simplicity: HUD should provide for an early, firm and clear GFE, synchronized with the HUD-1, to provide certainty and simplicity for borrowers early in the process. This single step, which can be accomplished fairly quickly, will do more to achieve the aims of RESPA reform than any other, without introducing unpredictable effects into the real estate finance marketplace, or picking industry winners and losers through regulation.
- 2. Encourage Packaging without a Section 8 Exemption: HUD should discard the proposal for a Section 8 exemption to facilitate packaging. The marketplace has already begun to respond vigorously under current law to offer bundled services. Current law permits packaging but requires that 100% of any discounts created by bundling services be passed on to the consumer. The Section 8 exemption would remove the requirement that savings accrue to the borrower and would be a step backwards for the goals of RESPA reform. NAR specifically opposes a Section 8 exemption for so called "volume based" discounts. A Section 8 exemption for volume based discounts would allow the provider of services, rather than the consumer, to pocket the savings. Instead of permitting Section 8 exemptions, HUD can encourage packaging by studying and publicizing different market-based approaches to bundled services.

3. Increase Enforcement and Education: HUD should step up RESPA enforcement efforts. We recognize and commend the Department's current efforts to improve RESPA enforcement but believe that further enhancements are necessary. Real estate professionals who play by the rules cannot afford to compete with those who do not. Fair competition requires real enforcement. HUD should also encourage education efforts to ensure that all market participants are aware of their obligations. NAR began an extensive RESPA education effort more than a year ago and we are expanding that effort. Other entities should be encouraged to do so as well and HUD should play a role.

While, as you have pointed out, it is not possible to achieve 100 percent consensus, I believe that the approach outlined above as it emerged during the roundtables will draw broad support from across the real estate finance industry, and provide a realistic basis for significant improvement for consumers. Once consumers, HUD and the industry have experience with an improved GFE, the Department will be in a better position to decide whether additional RESPA changes make sense.

Once again, we thank you for your leadership and your willingness to listen to everyone with a stake in RESPA reform.

Yours Truly,

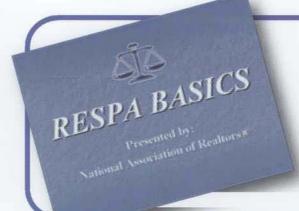
Thomas M. Stevens, CRB, CRS, GRI 2006 President, National Association of REALTORS®

# **RESPA Education Initiative**

Presented by The National Association of REALTORS®

Every REALTOR® is affected by the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974.

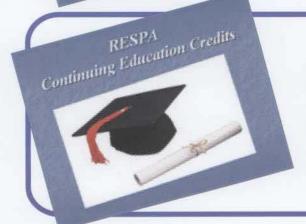
NAR offers several educational programs to guide members through the maze of provisions and regulations.



"RESPA Basics" is an introductory PowerPoint presentation that provides NAR members with an outline of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act. Designed for those new to RESPA or for those who want to brush up on the statute's basic provisions, "RESPA Basics" is a must for every REALTOR®.



NAR's "RESPA Realities" program is available at NAR's Annual Conventions and Midyear Legislative Meetings. This popular program features an expert RESPA attorney in lecture format and a question & answer session NAR members to address real life RESPA situations facing REALTORS®.



Continuing Education Credit. NAR works with state REALTOR® Associations to qualify RESPA education courses for continuing education credits. Expert RESPA attorneys conduct the course and provide in-depth analysis and valuable insights into the complexities of RESPA and Regulation X.

Contact NAR today to discuss the RESPA program that best suits your educational needs

Staff contact: Scott Rinn SRinn@REALTORS.org 202.383.7508

500 New Jersey Avnue NW, Washington, DC, 20001

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